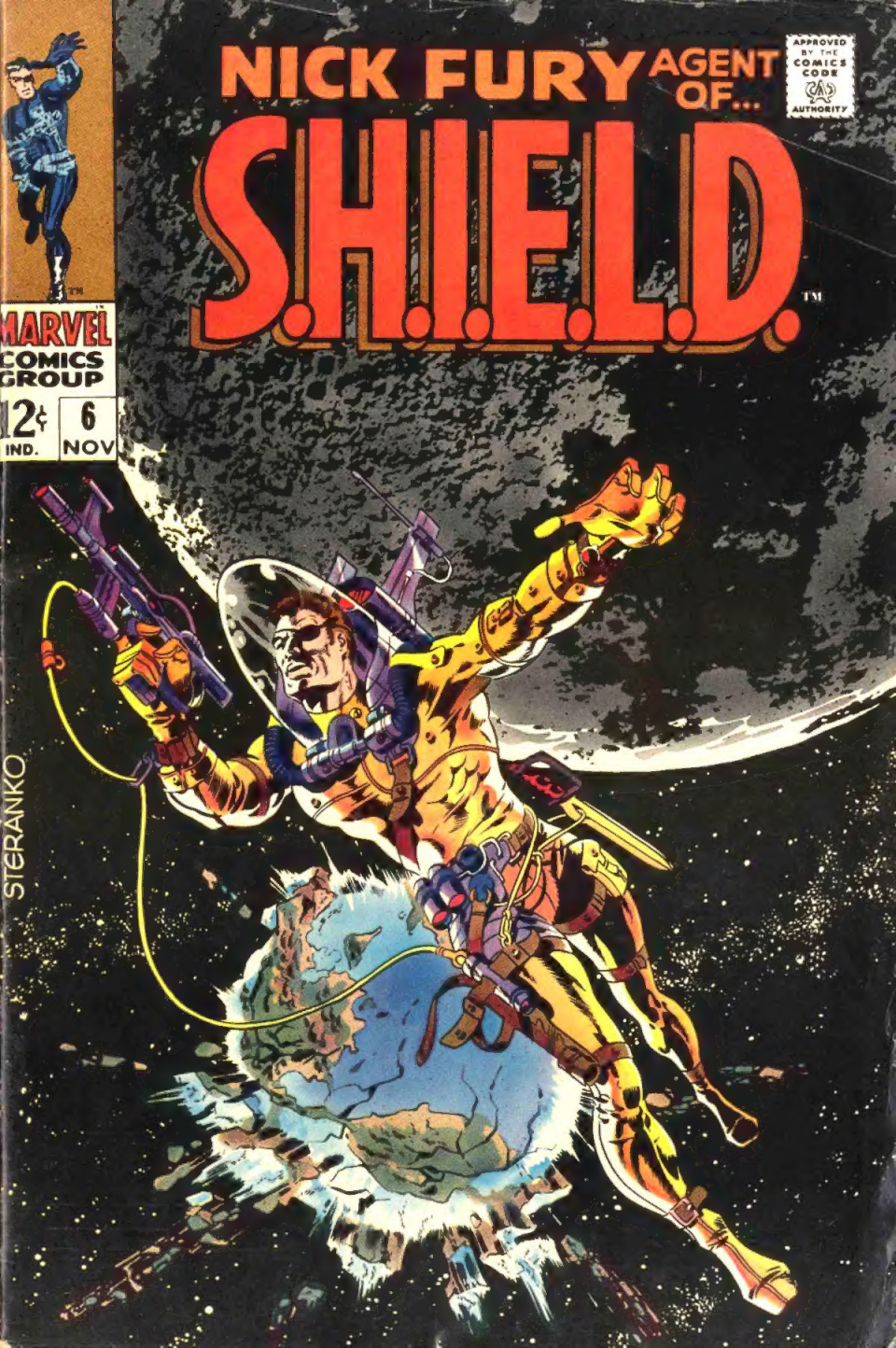
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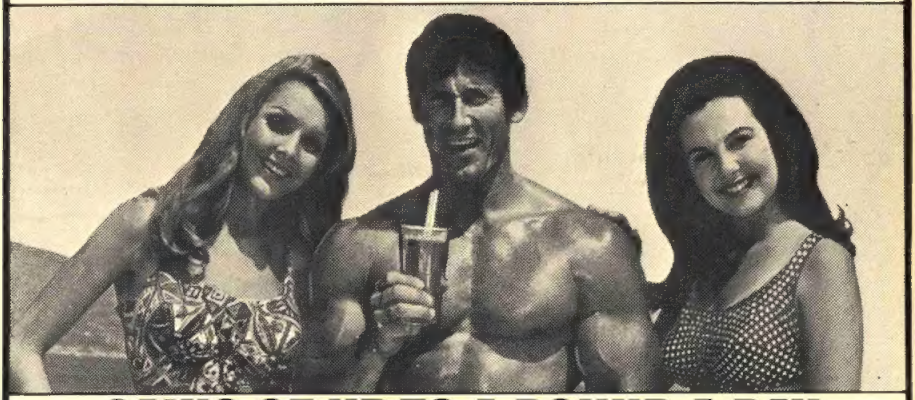
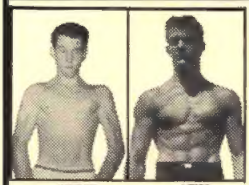
Tired of Being 'SKINNY'?

DRINK ON POUNDS OF WEIGHT FAST—THE FUN WAY!



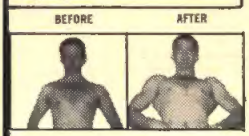
GAINS OF UP TO A·POUND·A·DAY PROVEN BY THOUSANDS

IT'S DELICIOUS! IT'S WILD! The new taste-sensation "CRASH-WEIGHT GAINING PLAN" developed by Joe Weider, "Trainer of Champions", "Architect of Beauty" helps you drink on pounds... UP TO A POUND A DAY easily and enjoyably while you rest... relax... watch TV... sleep. Men, women and children... see measurable gains instantly and say goodbye to your skinny, undesirable string-bean body... NOW!



BEFORE AFTER

HERE'S LIVING PROOF IT WORKS—FAST Used with amazing results by tens of thousands of men, women and children for more than 7 years! Now, you too can take this guaranteed way to build up your caloric intake for fast and substantial weight gains!



BEFORE AFTER

GAINS 18 LBS. IN 14 DAYS!

The "before" photo shows how Larry Chamiel looked without the added weight he needed so badly. The "after" photo shows Larry 14 days after he started the **Crash-Weight Plan** and gained 18 pounds. He writes: "What more could a guy ask for? All I did was add 4 glasses of Crash Weight Formula #7 to my regular meals, follow Joe Weider's Plan and I gained a tremendous 18 pounds in two weeks!"

SHOULDN'T THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

GAINS 14 LBS. IN 14 DAYS!

James Parker of Ft. Worth, Texas writes: "It's Fantastic—I went from 158 to 172 pounds in 14 days. Gained 14 pounds in 14 days and added 2 inches to my chest. I'm more than satisfied!"

SHOULDN'T THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

DO-IT-YOUR-SELF GAIN-A-POUND-A-DAY KIT!

This is a 1-day supply of **Crash-Weight,** chock full of weight-gaining nutrients that can smash the weight-gaining barrier!

You want to gain a pound a day? Half a pound a day? Maybe you just want to add a few pounds here and there? You want it easily . . . enjoyably . . . without stuffing yourself and counting calories?

NOW YOU CAN

It's simply wild... AND IT WORKS!

You too can follow this amazing Crash-Weight Formula #7 Plan and drink on as much as a pound a day . . . Skinny people are undesirable . . . they look sickly. Say goodbye to your string-bean looks with this sensational new plan—NOW!

No more bloating yourself with rich, heavy foods to force-feed calories into your system. Drink 4 delicious glasses of natural-organic Crash-Weight Formula #7 daily in addition to your regular meals. Follow Crash Weight Plan as directed in the free booklet and you can drink on (in delicious, milk-shake tasting form) mixed with usual household food ingredients, up to 3500 calories along with your regular calorie intake. Then, take it easy . . . while you relax, snooze or watch TV . . . this calorie-packed weight-training drink and the Formula #7 Plan does all the work, piling on weight for you.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE COUPON

JOE WEIDER Dept. 83-108K4
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Union City, N. J. 07087

Dear Joe:

I want to join the WEIGHT-GAINABLES. Enclosed find $..... for your **Crash Weight Formula #7 Plan** which I have checked below. I understand your Money Back Guarantee applies only if I order my Plan through this coupon!

Check one of the Plans below:

☐ 7-Day Supply of Crash Weight #7 Plan ..... $ 7.50

☐ 14-Day Supply of Crash Weight #7 Plan $14.98

Check flavor desired: ☐ Chocolate ☐ Vanilla

NAME ..... AGE .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... STATE ..... ZIP .....

(Please print clearly)

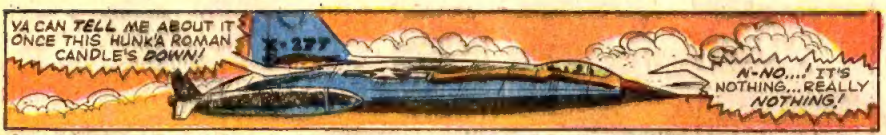
IT'S NEW! IT'S HERE! **JOIN THE WEIGHT GAINABLES! DRINK ON POUNDS-FAST! SAFELY!**

INTRODUCTION... TO AN EARTH-SHATTERING EPIC OF COSMIC DOOM! • EDITED BY STAN LEE • PLOTTED BY ROY THOMAS • WRITTEN BY ARCHIE GOODWIN • ILLUSTRATED BY FRANK SPRINGER • LETTERED BY A. SIMEK

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?!
WHAT KINDA SET-UP IS THIS?!
WHY'D YA SUCK OUR PLANE INTO THIS HIDDEN DISNEYLAND OF YOURS?!
WHAT IN BLAZES DO YA WANT WITH US?!
WITH YOU AND THE REST OF THE SAVAGES CALLED HUMANS, COLONEL FURY...?
...NOTHING!
THEN WHY HOLD RANDALL AN' ME... RIGHT, CLIFF? CLIFF? WHAT'S WRONG? WHY DON'T YA SAY SOMETHIN'?!
SORRY, COLONEL... THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE... I... I... DON'T KNOW...
I... CAN'T EXPLAIN IT...!
IN THE APPROACHING HOURS, ALL ANSWERS WILL BE FORTH-COMING...
THE GREAT MOMENT IS AT HAND... THE GATEWAY ABOUT TO OPEN...
AND WE, WHO IN THIS BARBAROUS BIT OF TIME AND SPACE CALL OURSELVES THE OTHERS, SHALL AT LAST ESCAPE...
...THOUGH IT MEANS THE UTTER DESTRUCTION OF THIS DIMENSIONAL PRISON YOU CALL... EARTH!

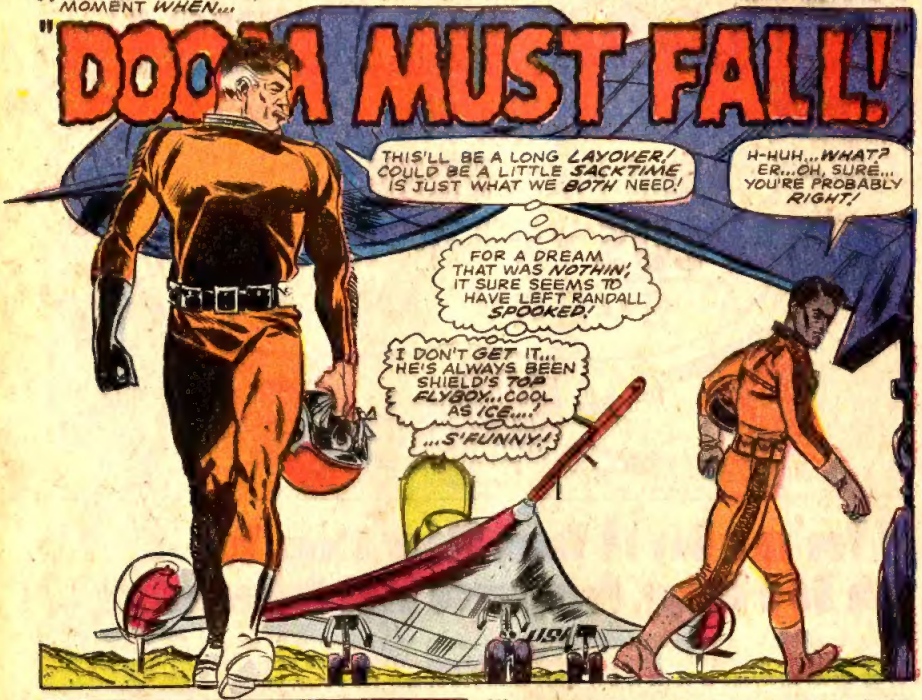
NICK FURY, Agent of SHIELD is published by OLYMPIA PUBLICATIONS, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 625 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022. Published monthly. Copyright ©1968 by Olympia Publications, Inc. Marvel Comics Group, all rights reserved, 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 6, Nov., 1968 issue. Price 12¢ per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. by The Eastern Color Printing Co., Waterbury 20, Conn. Subscription rate $1.75 and $2.25 Canada for 12 issues including postage. Foreign subscriptions $3.25.

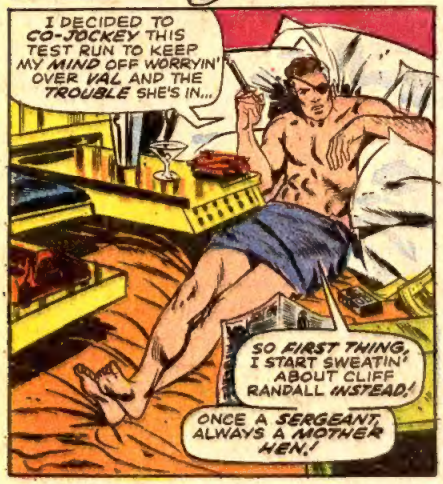
MISTER, I DUNNO WHAT YOU GOT IN MIND, BUT I AINT ABOUT TO JUST PLAY PATTYCAKE WHILE YA MAKE IT HAPPEN!
CLIFF! DON'T STAND THERE LIKE SOME KINDA ZOMBIE! THESE BOZOS ARE TALKIN' ABOUT DESTROYIN' THE EARTH!
THE HUMAN BECOMES ANNOYING... TAKE HIM AWAY!
IF HE PERSISTS... ANNIHILATE HIM!
PAL, YA DON'T KNOW WHAT PERSISTIN' IS...
BUT I'M JUST ABOUT TO SHOW YA!
RANDALL, ARE YA NUTS?! MOVE! OUR WORLD'S AT STAKE... WE'RE BREAKIN' OUT!
WHAT'S BUGGIN' YA? I CAN'T FIGHT ALL THESE CREEPS ALONE... GET CRACKIN'! THAT'S AN ORDER!
C-COLONEL, I'M SORRY... I DON'T KNOW WHY... I--I JUST CAN'T!
CAN'T?! LISSEN...
FER EARTH'S SAKE ...YA GOTTA HELP! YA GOTTA!
D'YA HEAR ME, RANDALL?! YA GOTTA...
RANDALL, YA GOTTA...
...WAKE UP! WE'RE HITTIN' THE APPROACH TO SHIELD'S FAR-WESTERN BASE... TIME TO TAKE OVER FROM THE AUTO-PILOT!
THE TEST TRIP FOR THIS NEW HIGH ALTITUDE ROCKET CRUISER AINT NO TIME TO TRY LANDIN' IN YOUR SLEEP!
YA SEEM SHOOK, CLIFF... EVERYTHING OKAY?
I-I'M... FINE, COLONEL... JUST HAD A DOOZY OF A NIGHTMARE... THAT'S ALL!
2



A ROUTINE TEST FLIGHT, ONE MAN'S TROUBLED DREAM...HURL NICK FURY TOWARD THE FEARFUL MOMENT WHEN...

"DOOM MUST FALL!


THIS'LL BE A LONG LAYOVER! COULD BE A LITTLE SACKTIME IS JUST WHAT WE BOTH NEED!
H-HUH...WHAT? ER...OH, SURE... YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT!
FOR A DREAM THAT WAS NOTHIN', IT SURE SEEMS TO HAVE LEFT RANDALL SPOOKED!
I DON'T GET IT... HE'S ALWAYS BEEN SHIELD'S TOP FLYBOY...COOL AS ICE...!
...S'FUNNY!


I DECIDED TO CO-JOCKEY THIS TEST RUN TO KEEP MY MIND OFF WORRYIN' OVER VAL AND THE TROUBLE SHE'S IN...
SO FIRST THING, I START SWEATIN' ABOUT CLIFF RANDALL INSTEAD!
ONCE A SERGEANT, ALWAYS A MOTHER HEN!

WHILE, IN THE QUARTERS OF THE SHIELD PILOT...
I GOT TO GET HOLD OF MYSELF...GOT TO FORGET THAT--
GOOD LORD!
MY REFLEC-TION...!
IT...IT'S ME, AND YET...IT'S LIKE ONE OF THOSE DREAM CREATURES...
ONE OF THE...! THE...OTHERS!
3

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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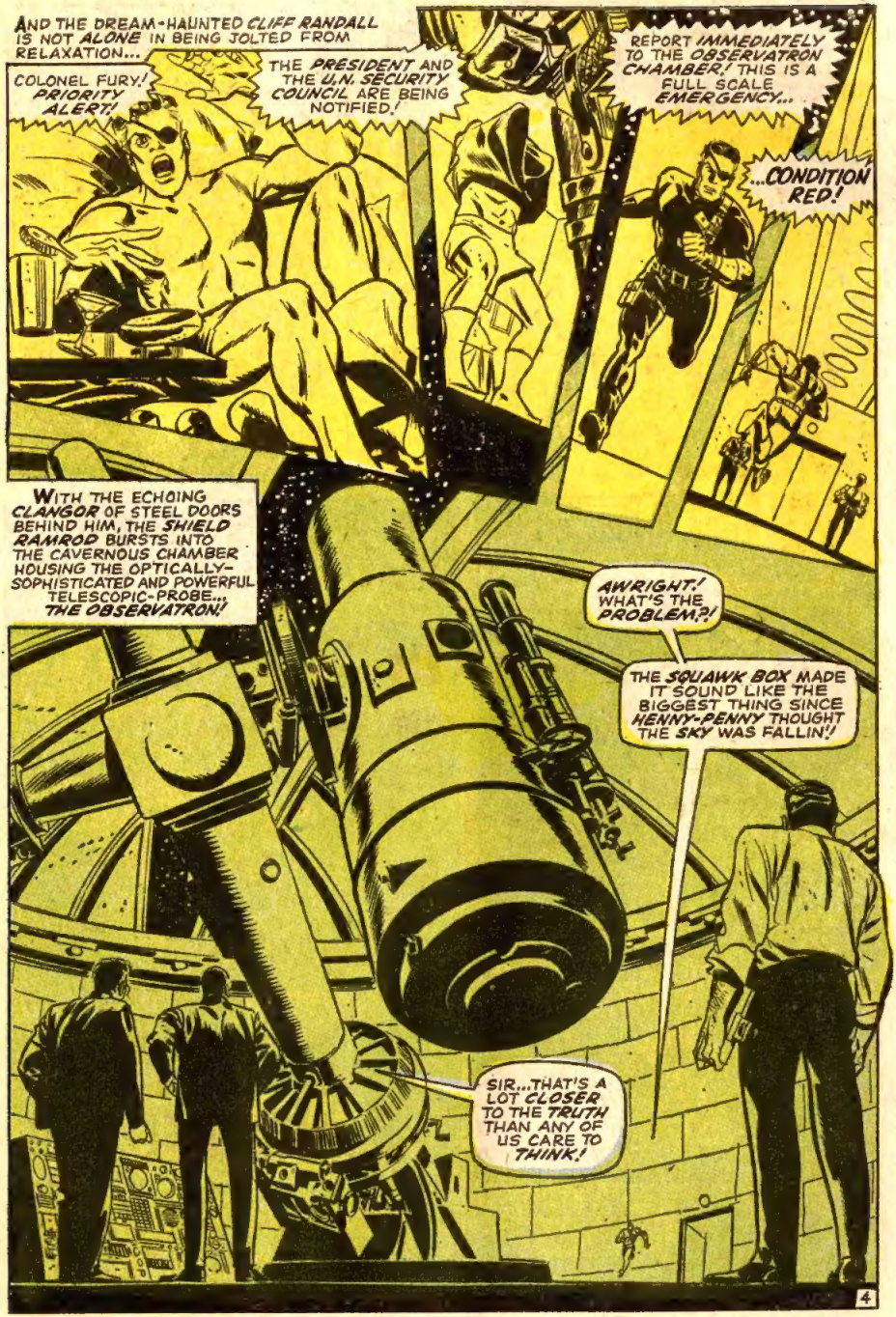
Print Your Last Name Plainly Here

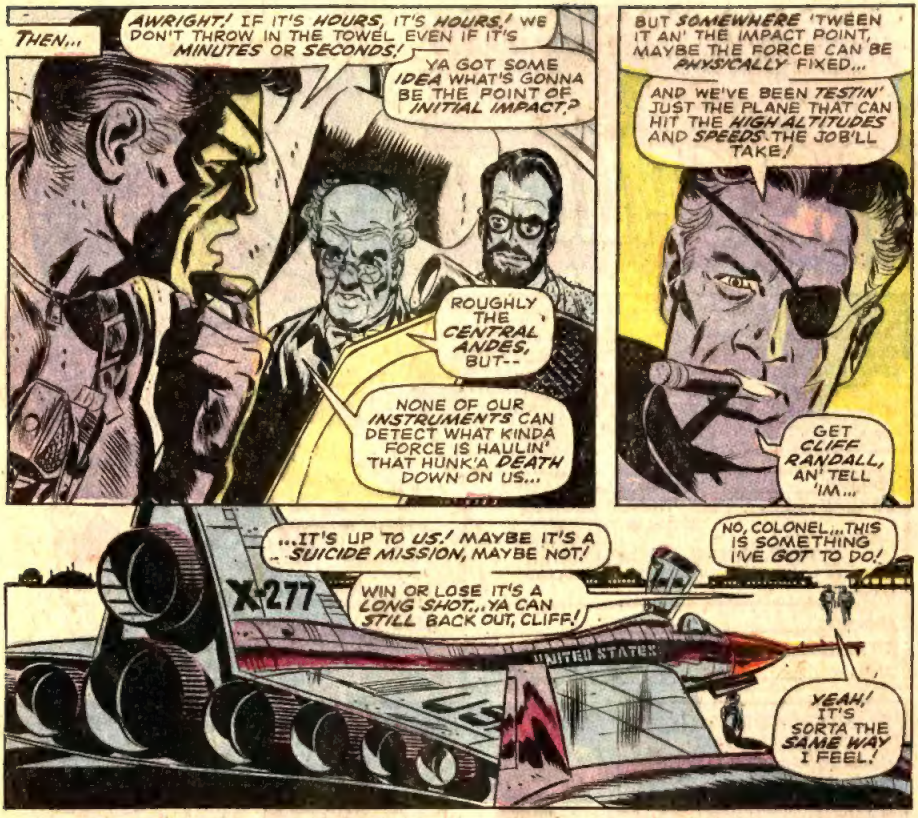

AND THE DREAM-HAUNTED CLIFF RANDALL IS NOT ALONE IN BEING JOLTED FROM RELAXATION...
COLONEL FURY! PRIORITY ALERT!
THE PRESIDENT AND THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL ARE BEING NOTIFIED!
REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE OBSERVATRON CHAMBER! THIS IS A FULL SCALE EMERGENCY...
...CONDITION RED!
WITH THE ECHOING CLANGOR OF STEEL DOORS BEHIND HIM, THE SHIELD RAMROD BURSTS INTO THE CAVERNOUS CHAMBER HOUSING THE OPTICALLY-SOPHISTICATED AND POWERFUL TELESCOPIC-PROBE... THE OBSERVATRON!
AWRIGHT! WHAT'S THE PROBLEM,?!
THE SQUAWK BOX MADE IT SOUND LIKE THE BIGGEST THING SINCE HENNY-PENNY THOUGHT THE SKY WAS FALLIN!
SIR...THAT'S A LOT CLOSER TO THE TRUTH THAN ANY OF US CARE TO THINK!

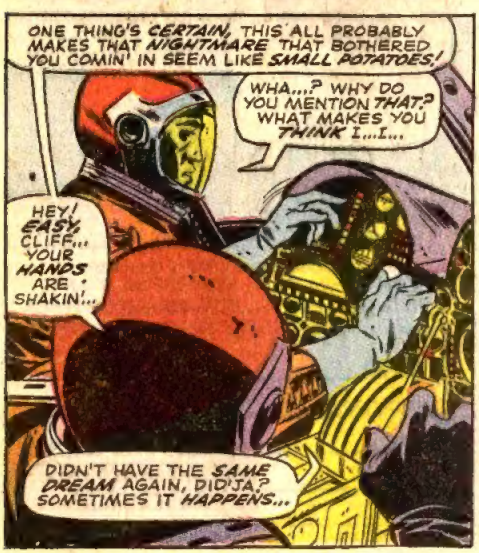
I DON'T SEE ANYBODY SMILIN' LIKE THEY'RE PUTTIN' ME ON... SUPPOSE YOU TALK, I LISSEN!
IT STARTED WITH ROUTINE OBSERVATION OF THE ASTEROID BELT BETWEEN MARS AND JUPITER...
ROUTINE UNTIL ONE OF THE LARGER PLANETOIDS SEEMED TO CAREEN VIOLENTLY FROM ORBIT, AND INTO A NEW PATH!
COLONEL FURY...THAT NEW PATH IS A COLLISION COURSE WITH EARTH!

AN' IF IT HITS... WHAT KINDA DAMAGE?
NOT IF, SIR... WHEN! DAMAGE MAY BE THE WRONG WORD ALSO... I'D USE DESTRUCTION...
...TOTAL!
IT... JUST DON'T SEEM POSSIBLE...
BY ALL NATURAL LAWS, AS WE KNOW THEM, IT ISN'T!
THEN, THAT LEAVES UNNATURAL!

WE THOUGHT OF THAT, COLONEL... AT THE UNBELIEVABLE SPEED IT'S HEADING FOR EARTH, SOMETHING HAS TO BE DRAWING IT!
BUT SEE FOR YOURSELF... THE OBSERVATRON'S WHOLE DETECTION SYSTEM...
...REGISTERS NOTHIN' BUT GOOSE EGGS... ZERO!
MEANTIME, THAT BIG BALL'A DOOM KEEPS CREEPIN' CLOSER! PRETTY SOON, ALL THE REGULAR OBSERVATORIES WILL START PICKIN' IT UP...
FROM THERE ON, IT'LL BE PANIC RIGHT TO THE END!
HOW MANY DAYS YA FIGURE WE GOT BEFORE THEN?
COLONEL FURY... I'M... I'M... SORRY... WE DON'T FIGURE DAYS, BUT...

...HOURS!
LIKE THE STROKE OF AN EXECUTIONER'S AXE, SILENCE FALLS ON THE OBSERVATRON CHAMBER... WHILE, IN THE VOID OF SPACE, THE MASSIVE PLANETOID MOVES ONWARD WITH JUGGERNAUT RELENTLESSNESS!


THEN,...
AWRIGHT! IF IT'S HOURS, IT'S HOURS! WE DON'T THROW IN THE TOWEL EVEN IF IT'S MINUTES OR SECONDS!
YA GOT SOME IDEA WHAT'S GONNA BE THE POINT OF INITIAL IMPACT?
ROUGHLY THE CENTRAL ANDES, BUT--
NONE OF OUR INSTRUMENTS CAN DETECT WHAT KINDA FORCE IS HAULIN' THAT HUNK'A DEATH DOWN ON US...
BUT SOMEWHERE 'TWEEN IT AN' THE IMPACT POINT, MAYBE THE FORCE CAN BE PHYSICALLY FIXED...
AND WE'VE BEEN TESTIN' JUST THE PLANE THAT CAN HIT THE HIGH ALTITUDES AND SPEEDS THE JOB'LL TAKE!
GET CLIFF RANDALL, AN' TELL 'IM...
...IT'S UP TO US! MAYBE IT'S A SUICIDE MISSION, MAYBE NOT!
WIN OR LOSE IT'S A LONG SHOT...YA CAN STILL BACK OUT, CLIFF!
NO, COLONEL...THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO DO!
X-277
UNITED STATES
YEAH! IT'S SORTA THE SAME WAY I FEEL!


ONE THING'S CERTAIN, THIS ALL PROBABLY MAKES THAT NIGHTMARE THAT BOTHERED YOU COMIN' IN SEEM LIKE SMALL POTATOES!
WHA...? WHY DO YOU MENTION THAT? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I...I...
HEY! EASY, CLIFF... YOUR HANDS ARE SHAKIN'...
DIDN'T HAVE THE SAME DREAM AGAIN, DID'JA? SOMETIMES IT HAPPENS...

N-NO! LOOK, I'M FINE, NICK...HONEST...
LET'S JUST DROP IT ABOUT THE DREAM, HUH?
SURE... ANYTHIN', YA SAY...!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON? NEVER SAW RANDALL GET LIKE THIS...
BUT WATTA YA EXPECT WITH ALL THAT'S HANGIN' OVER US?
CLIFF'S A KOREAN WAR ACE, BEEN WITH SHIELD ALMOST FROM THE START...HE'LL BE ALRIGHT!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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PLASTIC PILLOWS!

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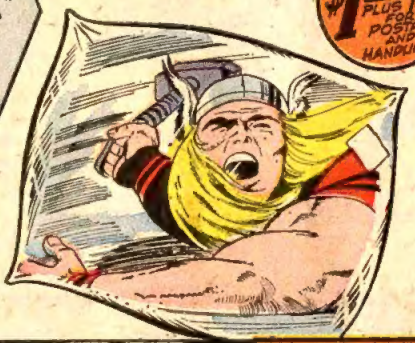

I'D LIKE _____ SPIDER-MAN PILLOWS.
I'D LIKE _____ THOR PILLOWS.
TOTAL→ [ ]

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625 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. N.Y. 10022

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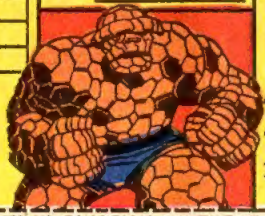
CAPT. MARVEL		
SPIDER-MAN		
THE HULK		
THOR		

TOTAL [$]

MERRY MARVEL MARCHING SOCIETY KIT [$]



The MERRY MARVEL MARCHING SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP KIT!

ALL NEW MEMBERSHIP KIT: AN OFFICIAL RECORDING OF M.M.M.S. SONG... SWINGIN' STICKERS OF EIGHT MARVEL HEROES ...A NUTTY NEW NOTE PAD...A MARVEL MINI-BOOK...A MARVEL PENCIL...AN M.M.M.S. CERTIFICATE...YOUR OWN MEMBERSHIP CARD... *ALL FOR ONLY* $1.00

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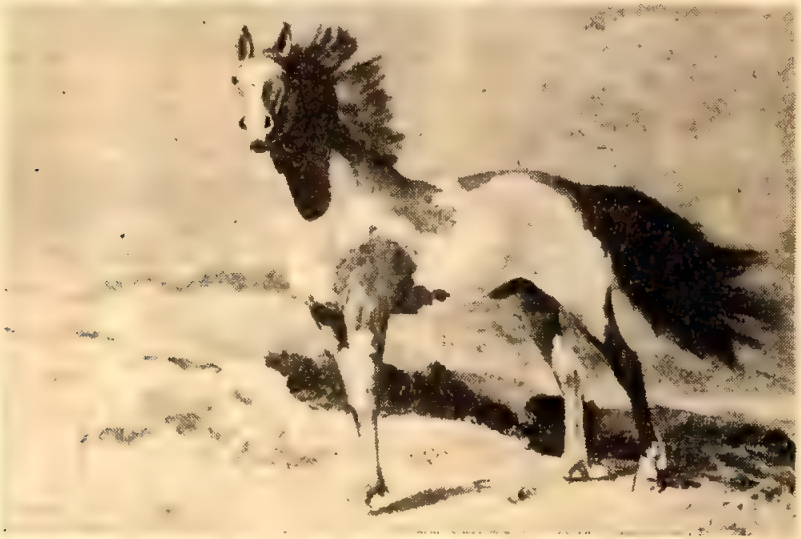

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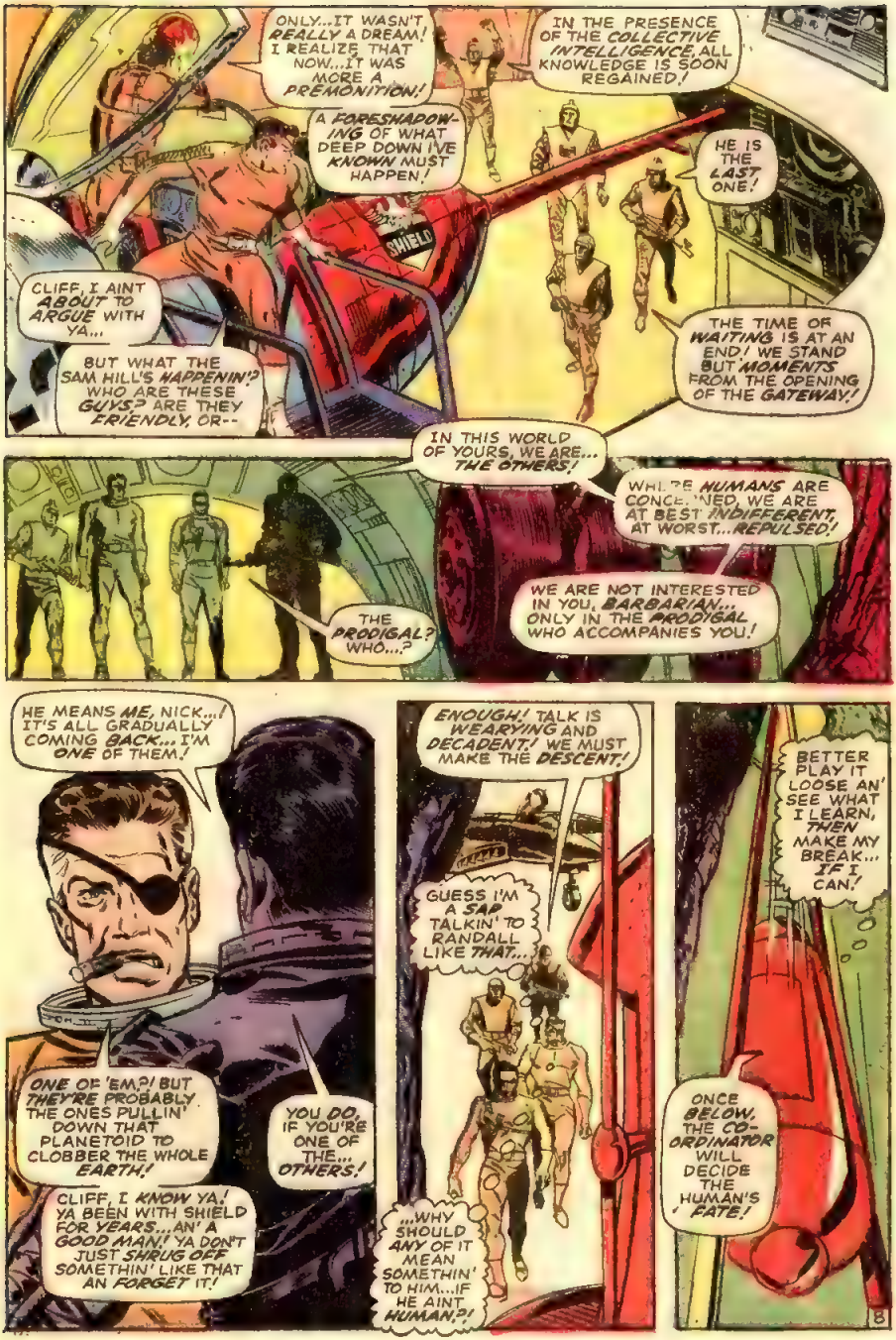
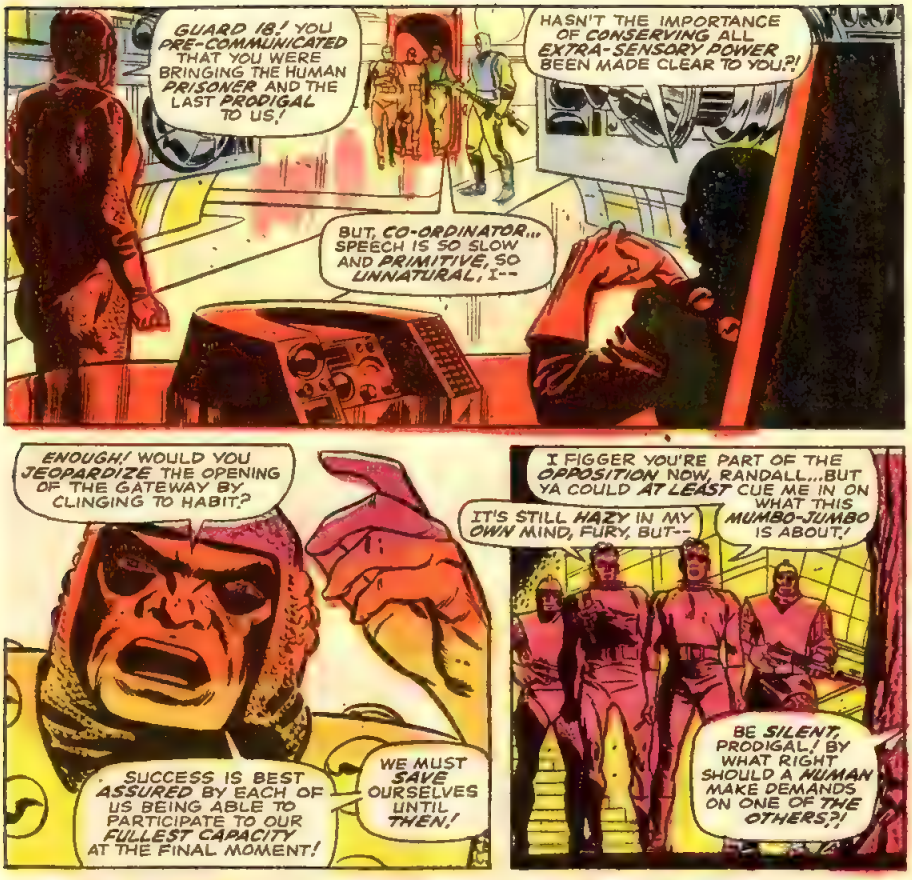
BUT, AS THE ROCKET-POWERED CRUISER SOARS TOWARDS ITS DESTINATION AT ULTRA-SONIC SPEEDS...
CLIFF, HAVE YA GONE BATTY,?!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR FIDDLIN' WITH THE AUTO-CONTROL SETTIN'!
N-NICK... I'M SORRY...
SORRY,?! YOU'RE SENDIN' US RIGHT INTO THE MOUNTAINS!
LEGGO THE DUAL CONTROLS SO I CAN PULL US OUT!
NO...THIS IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO... CAN'T EXPLAIN... I...
CLIFF! THE WORLD'S DEPENDIN' ON US, AN' YOU'RE GONNA SPREAD US ACROSS THOSE PEAKS LIKE PEANUT BUTTER!
RELEASE THE BLASTED CONTROLS BEFORE I--
HUH?!
THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN... IT'S OPENIN' UP!
HOW COULD YA FIGURE SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT,?!
I...I DON'T KNOW... IT SEEMED ALMOST... INSTINCTIVE!
WHAT TH--? NOW OUR POWER'S GONE! THE PLANE'S SLOWIN' DOWN...
SOME KINDA CONTROL OVER THE AIR CURRENTS...!
GIVES YA ALMOST THE SAME FEELIN' AS MOVIN' THROUGH SOME KINDA DREAM,!
YES, NICK... I KNOW...
...MINE!


ONLY...IT WASN'T REALLY A DREAM! I REALIZE THAT NOW...IT WAS MORE A PREMONITION!
A FORESHADOWING OF WHAT DEEP DOWN I'VE KNOWN MUST HAPPEN!
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE, ALL KNOWLEDGE IS SOON REGAINED!
HE IS THE LAST ONE!
THE TIME OF WAITING IS AT AN END! WE STAND BUT MOMENTS FROM THE OPENING OF THE GATEWAY!
CLIFF, I AINT ABOUT TO ARGUE WITH YA...
BUT WHAT THE SAM HILL'S HAPPENIN'? WHO ARE THESE GUYS? ARE THEY FRIENDLY, OR--
IN THIS WORLD OF YOURS, WE ARE... THE OTHERS!
WHILE HUMANS ARE CONCERNED, WE ARE AT BEST INDIFFERENT, AT WORST...REPULSED!
WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN YOU, BARBARIAN... ONLY IN THE PRODIGAL WHO ACCOMPANIES YOU!
THE PRODIGAL? WHO...?
HE MEANS ME, NICK...! IT'S ALL GRADUALLY COMING BACK... I'M ONE OF THEM!
ONE OF 'EM?! BUT THEY'RE PROBABLY THE ONES PULLIN' DOWN THAT PLANETOID TO CLOBBER THE WHOLE EARTH!
YOU DO, IF YOU'RE ONE OF THE... OTHERS!
CLIFF, I KNOW YA! YA BEEN WITH SHIELD FOR YEARS...AN' A GOOD MAN! YA DON'T JUST SHRUG OFF SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT AN FORGET IT!
ENOUGH! TALK IS WEARYING AND DECADENT! WE MUST MAKE THE DESCENT!
GUESS I'M A SAP TALKIN' TO RANDALL LIKE THAT...
...WHY SHOULD ANY OF IT MEAN SOMETHIN' TO HIM...IF HE AINT HUMAN,?!
BETTER PLAY IT LOOSE AN' SEE WHAT I LEARN, THEN MAKE MY BREAK... IF I CAN!
ONCE BELOW, THE CO-ORDINATOR WILL DECIDE THE HUMAN'S FATE!
8


GUARD 18.! YOU PRE-COMMUNICATED THAT YOU WERE BRINGING THE HUMAN PRISONER AND THE LAST PRODIGAL TO US.!
HASN'T THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVING ALL EXTRA-SENSORY POWER BEEN MADE CLEAR TO YOU.?!
BUT, CO-ORDINATOR... SPEECH IS SO SLOW AND PRIMITIVE, SO UNNATURAL, I--
ENOUGH! WOULD YOU JEOPARDIZE THE OPENING OF THE GATEWAY BY CLINGING TO HABIT.?
SUCCESS IS BEST ASSURED BY EACH OF US BEING ABLE TO PARTICIPATE TO OUR FULLEST CAPACITY AT THE FINAL MOMENT!
WE MUST SAVE OURSELVES UNTIL THEN.!
I FIGGER YOU'RE PART OF THE OPPOSITION NOW, RANDALL...BUT YA COULD AT LEAST CUE ME IN ON WHAT THIS MUMBO-JUMBO IS ABOUT.!
IT'S STILL HAZY IN MY OWN MIND, FURY, BUT--
BE SILENT, PRODIGAL.! BY WHAT RIGHT SHOULD A HUMAN MAKE DEMANDS ON ONE OF THE OTHERS.?!
BY A LOT BETTER RIGHT THAN YOU AN' YOUR FELLOW CREEPS CAN SET UP MY WORLD FOR A KING-SIZE CLOBBERIN'!
FOR YEARS, YOUR BOY RANDALL LIVED WITH US, WORKED WITH US, WAS ONE OF US...TRUSTED AN TREATED AS A FRIEND...
MAYBE TO A BIG DEAL "COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE" THAT'S NOTHIN', BUT I FIGGER IT LEAVES 'IM OWIN' A COUPLA WORDS OF EXPLANATION!
SAVE YOUR EMOTIONAL OUTBURSTS! THIS "WORLD" YOU PRIZE SO HIGHLY IS BUT A PRISON TO US!
BUT, TO BATHE THE GLAZE OF TIME FROM THE PRODIGAL'S GROUP MEMORY, LET ME RECOUNT THE COMING OF THE...OTHERS!
LET ME RECOUNT THE TRAGIC HOUR WHEN THE TIMELESS DIMENSION THAT IS OUR HOME WAS ROCKED BY COMBAT OF COSMIC SCOPE...
9

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MOST POWERFUL AIRPLANE

The XB-70A Valkyrie is the most powerful airplane in the world. This delta (triangular) winged experimental bomber weighs 265 tons (530,000 pounds) and is 196 feet long. The distance from wing tip to wing tip (wing span) is 105 feet. It has flown at speeds of Mach 3.0 or 2,000 M.P.H., and as high as 70,000 feet. *The Valkyrie gets its power from six turbojet engines, which have a total thrust or driving force of over 180,000 pounds.*

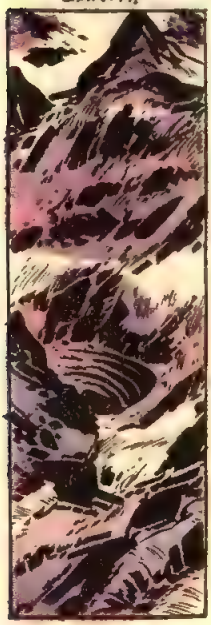
GO-POWERFUL CHEERIOS KID

The Cheerios Kid gets go-power from Cheerios! Like you, he needs a fresh supply of energy every day. And, a breakfast with Cheerios and milk is packed with muscle-building protein and energy for go-power. Get yourself Go. Get Cheerios!

GENERAL MILLS

THE MAD FOOLS! RATHER THAN HAVE THEIR TYRANNY ENDED, THEY'VE DETONATED THE IMPACT INDUCER!
ITS EVER-RADIATING RIPPLES OF POWER WILL ROCK EVERY CORNER OF OUR DIMENSION!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE!
ONE CHANCE REMAINS...A DIMENSIONAL GATEWAY!
EVERY PARTICLE OF OUR GROUP INTELLECT MUST BE BROUGHT TO BEAR AS THE SHOCK WAVE HITS...

"AND, THE MASSIVE-MENTAL WILL, COMBINED WITH THE BRUTAL IMPACT, CRASHED THE SHIP OF SURVIVORS THROUGH A DIMENSIONAL BARRIER TO A WORLD CALLED... EARTH!"



"THE SHIP WAS BROUGHT DOWN INTO THE DESOLATION OF THE ANDES, AND STEPS WERE IMMEDIATELY TAKEN TO BUILD A PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS WITHIN THIS MOUNTAIN..."

"A COLONY MAD TO BE ESTABLISHED... IT WOULD BE ALMOST TWENTY YEARS EARTH TIME BEFORE THE IMPACT INDUCER'S DEADLY REVERBERATIONS STILLED IN OUR HOME DIMENSION..."

"THROUGHOUT THE LONG EXILE, WE WORKED UNCEASINGLY TO DEVISE MEANS OF ARTFICIALLY RECREATING THE SAME EXACT CONDITIONS THAT BROUGHT US HERE FOR OUR EVENTUAL RETURN..."

"NOT THAT EFFORT WASN'T MADE TO ESTABLISH *OUTSIDE CONTACT*...BUT THE ATTEMPTS ALWAYS ENDED IN UNPROVOKED *HOSTILITY!* HENCE, WE CHOSE TO STYLE OURSELVES *THE OTHERS*, AND STAY APART FROM THOSE BARBARIANS WHO EXHIBITED ALL THE LATENT EVIL PRESENT IN THE *TYRANTS* FROM OUR *OWN* DIMENSION WHO CAUSED OUR EXILE HERE!"

"TO KEEP US *POSTED* ON THE BEHAVIOR OF THE SAVAGES AROUND US, *PRODIGALS* WERE SENT INTO THEIR MIDST, GROUP MEMORIES *BLANKED* AND ARTIFICIAL ONES *INDUCED* TO ENABLE THEM TO PASS PERFECTLY WHILE FUNCTIONING AS *RECEIVING SETS* FOR US! TIME AND AGAIN, THE CRUEL, WAR-LIKE NATURE OF HUMANS WAS ONLY *TOO WELL* CONFIRMED..."

"THEN, AT LONG *LAST*, THE DAY OF *ESCAPE* WAS AT HAND..."

ALL PRODIGALS ARE BEING *RECALLED*...

THEIR GROUP MEMORIES GRADUALLY *RESTORED*...

WE MUST HAVE *FULL MASS* MENTAL FORCE TO *ASSURE* WE BREAK FREE OF THIS *DUNGEON EARTH* INTO OUR OWN DIMENSION!

AND TO DO THAT, YOU'RE WILLIN' TO KNOCK OFF *OUR* WORLD JUST LIKE YOUR *OLD ENEMY* TRIED DOIN' TO *YOURS!*

WE STUDIED THE MATTER *AMPLY*...THE TRAITS WE FOUND IN HUMANS LEAVE LITTLE CAUSE TO *REGRET* WHAT WE DO!

IF YA ONLY LOOK FOR THE *BAD*, YA *FIND* IT...BUT ALL HUMANS AINT *LIKE* WHAT YOU SAW!

RANDALL! YOU CAN TELL 'IM,' YA *LIVED* AMONG US, SAW *BOTH* SIDES...TELL 'IM HOW IT *REALLY* IS!

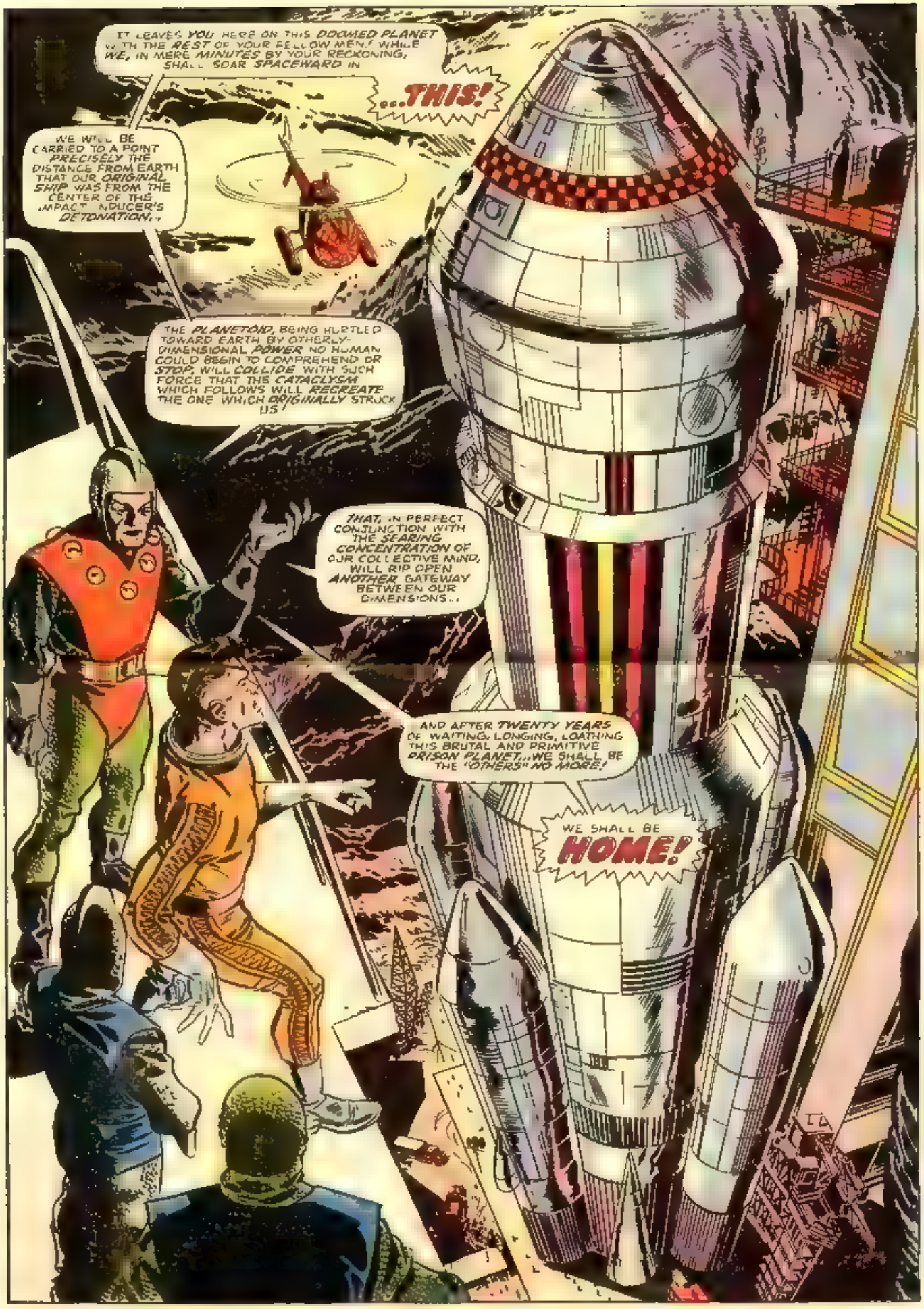
THERE IS *NO NEED!* THE PATTERN IS CLEAR TO *US*, IF NOT TO *YOU!*

THE PRODIGAL YOU KNEW AS *CLIFF RANDALL* MUST JOIN THE REST OF THE OTHERS IN THE *LOADING CHAMBER!*

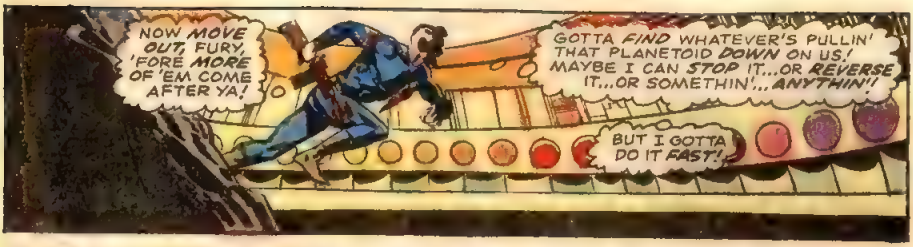
THERE CAN BE NO TURNING BACK *NOW!* THE *FINAL MOMENT* IS ALMOST UPON US!

AND JUST *WHERE* DOES THAT LEAVE *ME*, BRIGHT EYES?

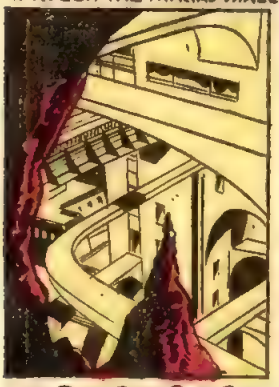
YOU, HUMAN...?


IT LEAVES YOU HERE ON THIS DOOMED PLANET WITH THE REST OF YOUR FELLOW MEN! WHILE WE, IN MERE MINUTES BY YOUR RECKONING, SHALL SOAR SPACEWARD IN
...THIS!
WE WILL BE CARRIED TO A POINT PRECISELY THE DISTANCE FROM EARTH THAT OUR ORIGINAL SHIP WAS FROM THE CENTER OF THE IMPACT INDUCER'S DETONATION..
THE PLANETOID, BEING HURTLED TOWARD EARTH BY OTHERLY-DIMENSIONAL POWER NO HUMAN COULD BEGIN TO COMPREHEND OR STOP, WILL COLLIDE WITH SUCH FORCE THAT THE CATACLYSM WHICH FOLLOWS WILL RECREATE THE ONE WHICH ORIGINALLY STRUCK US!
THAT, IN PERFECT CONJUNCTION WITH THE SEARING CONCENTRATION OF OUR COLLECTIVE MIND, WILL RIP OPEN ANOTHER GATEWAY BETWEEN OUR DIMENSIONS..
AND AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF WAITING, LONGING, LOATHING THIS BRUTAL AND PRIMITIVE PRISON PLANET...WE SHALL BE THE "OTHERS" NO MORE!
WE SHALL BE HOME!

MAYBE YA DO DESERVE TO GET BACK WHERE YA CAME FROM...
BUT YA AINT GONNA DESTROY THE EARTH IN THE PROCESS!
AND I AINT GONNA LEARN ANYTHIN' MORE BY PLAYIN' NICE!
HUMAN! YOU ONLY SHORTEN THE REMAINING MINUTES OF LIFE BY SO FOOLISH AN ACT!
STOP OR I'LL FIRE!
KA-WOK!
NOT LIKELY, PAL...
...YOU'RE GONNA BE TOO BUSY LANDIN' ON THE LEDGE BELOW!
W-WHAT YOU DO... IS... FUTILE...!
THE PATTERN OF DOOM WROUGHT FOR YOUR WORLD... CANNOT BE UNDONE... IT IS... TOO LATE!
SLAM!
SO YA SAY! BUT THAT'S THE THING WITH US PRIMITIVE HUMANS...
...WE JUST GO RIGHT ON TRYIN' ANYWAY!
AN' FOR ALL THE HIGH-POWERED TRYIN' I'M GONNA HAVE TO DO...
...NO USE BEIN' HAMPERED BY THESE FLYIN' TOGS!


NOW MOVE OUT, FURY, 'FORE MORE OF 'EM COME AFTER YA!
GOTTA FIND WHATEVER'S PULLIN' THAT PLANETOID DOWN ON US! MAYBE I CAN STOP IT...OR REVERSE IT...OR SOMETHIN'...ANYTHIN'!
BUT I GOTTA DO IT FAST!

FRANTICALLY, DESPERATELY, THE INDOMITABLE DIRECTOR OF SHIELD HURLS HIMSELF THROUGH THE MYRIAD MAZE OF CORRIDORS AND COMPARTMENTS COMPRISING THE OTHERS' COLONY...



IT'S NO BLASTED GOOD! TIME'S RUNNIN' OUT AN' I'M GETTIN' NOWHERE!
THIS PLACE IS THE SIZE OF A CITY! ONE MAN CAN'T BEGIN TO COVER IT!
AND IT'S DESERTED! THEY'RE ALL PULLIN' OUT...NOT EVEN BOTHERIN' TO COME AFTER ME!
LOOKS LIKE I'M LICKED, UNLESS--
WAIT A SECOND! WATTA WE GOT UP AHEAD?!

SOME KINDA COMMUNICATIONS CENTER...FURY, YA LUNKHEAD, THAT'S IT! THIS IS WHAT YA SHOULDA BEEN HUNTIN' FOR IN THE FIRST PLACE!
LET ALL BE ADVISED...WE ARE NOW ENTERING THE FINAL COUNTDOWN...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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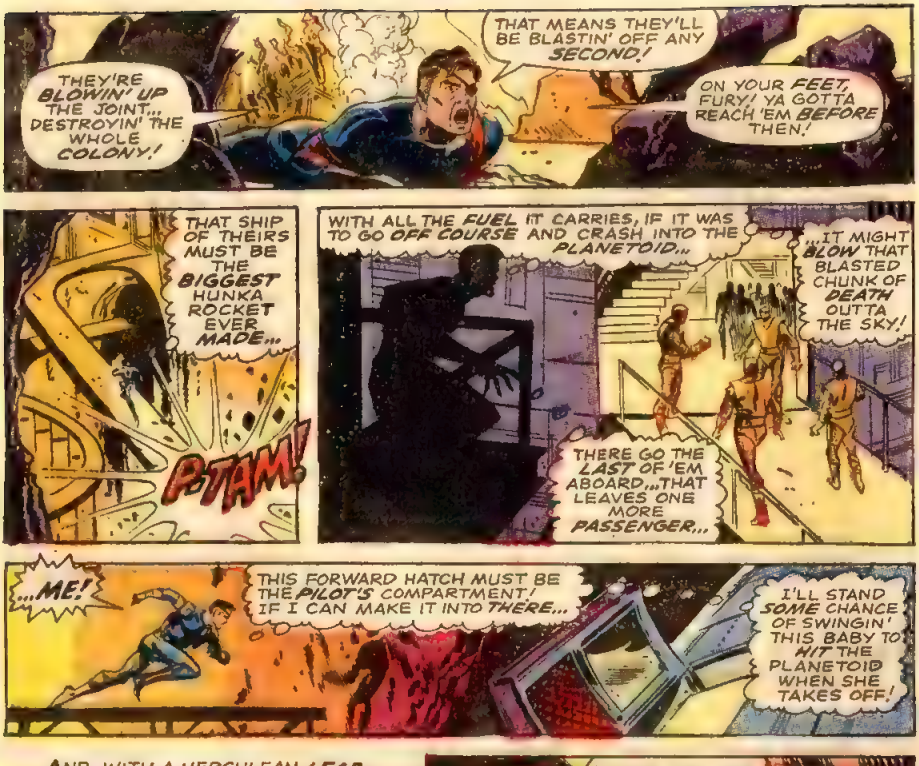
YA MUST BE PRETTY CONSCIENTIOUS, FRIEND...
...STICKIN' TO YOUR POST THIS LONG WHILE ALLA YOUR BUDDIES LINE UP FOR THE BIG ROCKET RIDE!
ONLY MAYBE IT AIN'T GONNA BE COMIN' OFF LIKE YA PLAN...
...NOT IF YOUR BROADCAST EQUIPMENT IS AS POWERFUL AS IT LOOKS!
...NOT IF I CAN GET THROUGH TO SHIELD'S ESP DIVISION!
AND IN MOMENTS, NICK FURY'S URGENT SIGNAL FLASHES ACROSS TWO CONTINENTS...TO SHIELD HEADQUARTERS, AND A STRANGE, LABYRINTHINE CHAMBER...
THIS IS WARDEN, COLONEL...IN THE TELEPATHIC AMPLIFIER!
ALL MIND POWER IN OUR ESP POOL HAS BEEN CHANNELED INTO HERE...WE'VE BEEN STANDING BY SINCE THE ALERT WAS DECLARED...
IT AIN'T BEEN FOR NOTHIN'... YOU'LL BE GETTIN' A WORKOUT... IN SPADES!
THERE'S NO TIME FOR ME TO TRACK DOWN THE GIZMO THAT'S DRAWING THE PLANETOID ONTO US...
BUT NOW THAT YA GOT A FIX, I'M COUNTIN' ON YOUR TEAM TO PSYCH-PROBE OUT ITS LOCATION!
WE'RE DOWN TO THE WIRE ON THIS... IF WE LOSE, IT'S THE WHOLE BALL GAME!

THEN, SECONDS EXPANDED TO ETERNITIES CRAWL ENDLESSLY BY, UNTIL...
C-COLONEL...!
YEAH, WARDEN, YEAH?!
SIR...IT'S UNBELIEVABLE ...WE'VE NEVER COME UP AGAINST ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
A...A COMPLETE PSYCHIC-SHIELD OVER THE WHOLE AREA...EVEN WITH OUR ENTIRE ESP CREW...EVEN PROBING THROUGH THE AMPLIFIER...
IT...IT'S IMPENETRABLE!
WARDEN...YA GOTTA KEEP TRYIN'...YA GOTTA BREAK THROUGH!
THOSE JOKERS ARE SUPPOSEDLY CONSERVIN' THEIR MENTAL POWER!
THIS ISN'T A CONSCIOUS EFFORT, SIR...MORE LIKE SOME NATURAL PROTECTIVE TRAIT OF THEIRS!
THERE'S NO PSYCHIC-PHENOMENA ON EARTH TO EQUAL THIS!
NATURALLY, WE'LL KEEP TRYING...YET THE STRAIN'S ALMOST CERTAIN TO BRING MENTAL COLLAPSE AND DEATH TO THE PROBE TEAM...!
IT WOULD STILL BE WORTH IT, IF ONLY IT WOULD HELP, BUT...
EASY, WARDEN... YA DONE YOUR BEST...
...NOW IT'S UP TO ME!
MAYBE THERE'S ONE LAST, OUTSIDE, ODDS-AGAINST TRICK TO TRY...
IF I CAN JUST REACH THAT ROCKET OF THEIRS!
BUT AS THE INDESTRUCTIBLE AGENT CHARGES TOWARD THE LOADING AREA...
KA-POW!!!
17


THEY'RE BLOWIN' UP THE JOINT,.. DESTROYIN' THE WHOLE COLONY!
THAT MEANS THEY'LL BE BLASTIN' OFF ANY SECOND!
ON YOUR FEET, FURY! YA GOTTA REACH 'EM BEFORE THEN!
THAT SHIP OF THEIRS MUST BE THE BIGGEST HUNKA ROCKET EVER MADE...
BTAM!
WITH ALL THE FUEL IT CARRIES, IF IT WAS TO GO OFF COURSE AND CRASH INTO THE PLANETOID...
...IT MIGHT BLOW THAT BLASTED CHUNK OF DEATH OUTTA THE SKY!
THERE GO THE LAST OF 'EM ABOARD...THAT LEAVES ONE MORE PASSENGER...
...ME!
THIS FORWARD HATCH MUST BE THE PILOT'S COMPARTMENT! IF I CAN MAKE IT INTO THERE...
I'LL STAND SOME CHANCE OF SWINGIN' THIS BABY TO MIT THE PLANETOID WHEN SHE TAKES OFF!
AND, WITH A HERCULEAN LEAP...
AWRIGHT! YOU BOYS ARE RELIEVED! GET AWAY FROM THOSE CONTROLS AND--
WHAT TH--RANDALL! THEY GOT YOU PILOTIN' THIS THING?!
NICK! ARE YOU CRAZY? WHAT CAN YOU HOPE TO DO NOW? WHY WASTE THE LITTLE BIT OF LIFE LEFT YOU?!
'CAUSE THE LIFE OF EARTH IS MORE IMPORTANT! YA MUSTA SPENT ENOUGH TIME AMONG US TO KNOW THAT!
BUT I KEEP FORGETTIN' NONE OF THAT MEANT ANYTHIN' TO YA!
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, I--
FURY!
GOOD WORK, PRODIGAL! YOU MADE HIM HESITATE LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE ME A CLEAR SHOT!
IT'S MERELY A SHOCK BLAST, BUT HE'LL FALL TO HIS DOOM!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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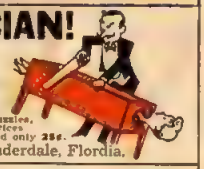

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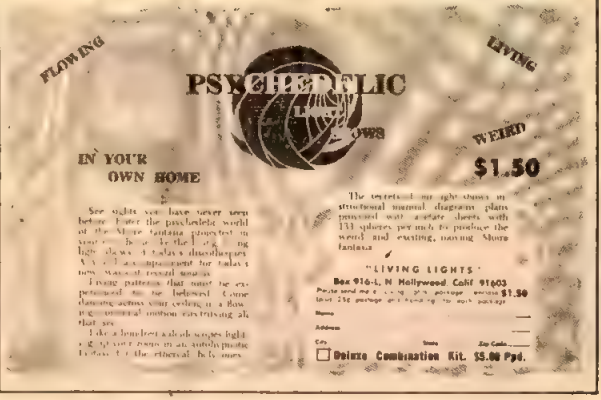
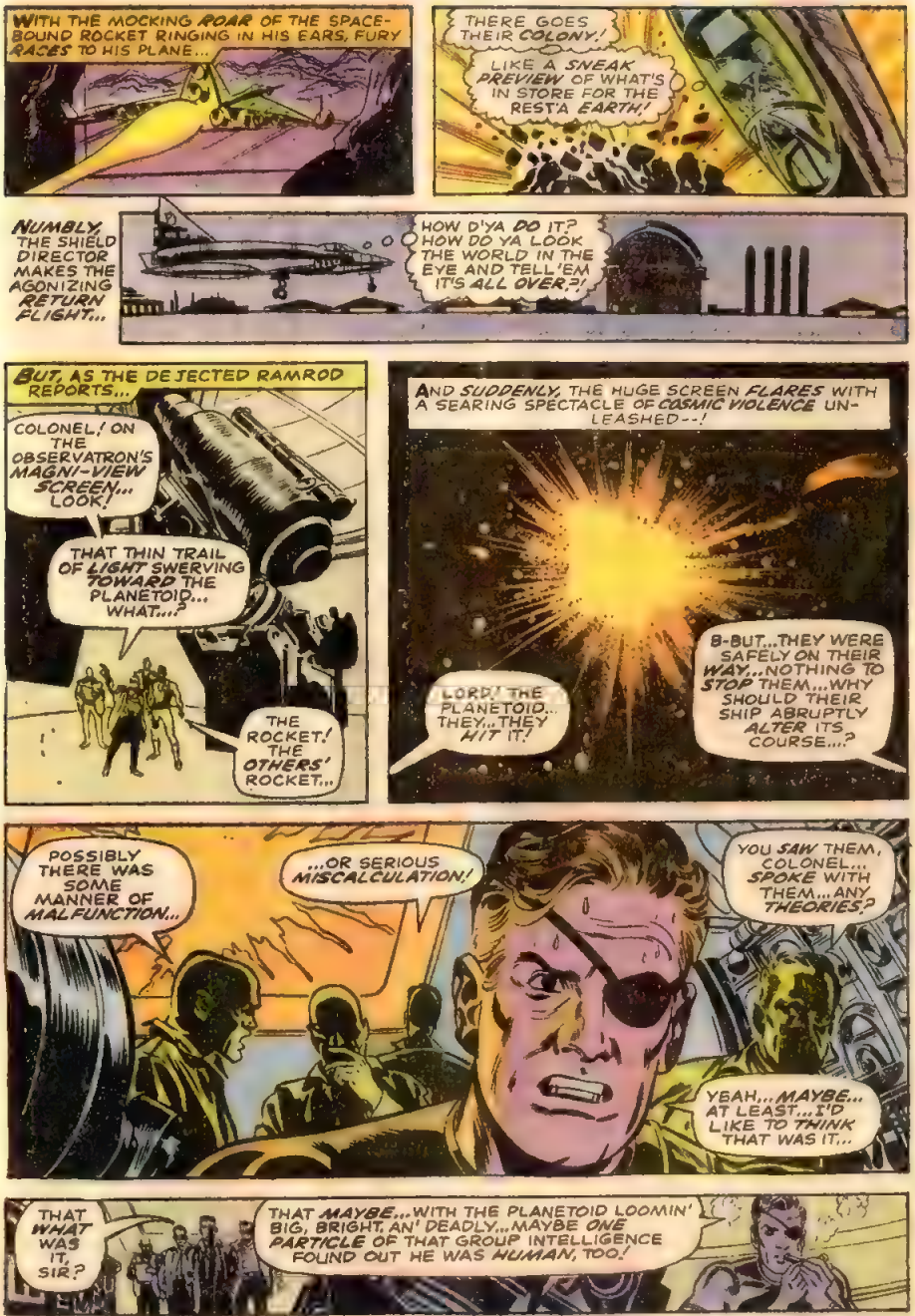


WHY STARE AFTER HIM, PRODIGAL? HE WAS ONLY A HUMAN!
TRUE...YET FOR MUCH OF MY LIFE, SO WAS I! COULD THAT BE WHY HE HESITATED--WHY I FEEL--
CEASE MUSING OVER SAVAGES! WE MUST NOW DEPART!
ONLY THING 'TWEEN ME AN' BEIN' WASTED ARE THOSE GANTRY CABLES BELOW...
...BUT LOOKS LIKE THEY'LL DO...IF MY ARMS STAY IN THEIR SOCKETS FROM THE JOLT!
THE CABLES! THEY'RE RELEASIN' THEM FOR BLAST OFF!
GOTTA HANG ON... SWING WITH 'EM... PRAY I CAN MAKE IT TO THE...
CLIK!
CLIK!
...LEDGE! UNGHHHHH!
WHAM!
MADE IT!..BUT WHAT USE IS IT SAVIN' MY OWN CRUMMY SKIN?
WITH THAT ROCKET GOES THE WORLD'S LAST HOPE!
PRRRRRRRRRRR


WITH THE MOCKING ROAR OF THE SPACE-BOUND ROCKET RINGING IN HIS EARS, FURY RACES TO HIS PLANE...
THERE GOES THEIR COLONY!
LIKE A SNEAK PREVIEW OF WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE REST'A EARTH!
NUMBLY, THE SHIELD DIRECTOR MAKES THE AGONIZING RETURN FLIGHT...
HOW D'YA DO IT? HOW DO YA LOOK THE WORLD IN THE EYE AND TELL 'EM IT'S ALL OVER?!
BUT, AS THE DEJECTED RAMROD REPORTS...
COLONEL! ON THE OBSERVATRON'S MAGNI-VIEW SCREEN... LOOK!
THAT THIN TRAIL OF LIGHT SWERVING TOWARD THE PLANETOID... WHAT...?
THE ROCKET! THE OTHERS' ROCKET...
AND SUDDENLY, THE HUGE SCREEN FLARES WITH A SEARING SPECTACLE OF COSMIC VIOLENCE UNLEASHED--!
LORD! THE PLANETOID... THEY... THEY HIT IT!
B-BUT... THEY WERE SAFELY ON THEIR WAY... NOTHING TO STOP THEM... WHY SHOULD THEIR SHIP ABRUPTLY ALTER ITS COURSE...?
POSSIBLY THERE WAS SOME MANNER OF MALFUNCTION...
...OR SERIOUS MISCALCULATION!
YOU SAW THEM, COLONEL... SPOKE WITH THEM... ANY THEORIES?
YEAH... MAYBE... AT LEAST... I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT WAS IT...
THAT WHAT WAS IT, SIR?
THAT MAYBE... WITH THE PLANETOID LOOMIN' BIG, BRIGHT, AN' DEADLY... MAYBE ONE PARTICLE OF THAT GROUP INTELLIGENCE FOUND OUT HE WAS HUMAN, TOO!

AS NICK FURY WALKS QUIETLY FROM THE CHAMBER, THE MAMMOTH VIEW-SCREEN BEHIND HIM FILLS WITH FIERY BRILLIANCE FROM THE FANTASTIC PAROXYSM'S AFTERGLOW... THEN FADES SLOWLY TO BLACK---

STOP THE PRESSES! HERE'S SOME SCOOPS AND SCUTTLEBUTT TO KNOCK YOU OUTTA YOUR TEEPEE!

ITEM! Merciful Marvel has seven swingin' **SPECIALS** on sale right now — The far-out **FANTASTIC FOUR**, featuring a certain brain-blasting blessed event — The Amazing SPIDER-MAN, presenting the startling secret of Peter's mom and dad — The Incredible HULK, fighting in the land of the Inhumans — the ever-lovin' SGT. FURY and his Howlers, contributing their block-bustin' bit to the Battle of the Bulge — The Mighty AVENGERS, meeting and fighting the Original Avengers — the mad, mod MILLIE THE MODEL, bringing you a bevy of bedlam, beauty, and batty belly-laughs — and for a totally unexpected, titanic treat, the majestic TALES OF ASGARD, possibly the most beautiful presentation issue of all time. There! We did our part! The rest is up to you!

ITEM! Notice anything different this ish? There are more letters than ever on our letters pages — 'cause we've been omitting the usual answers. It's a real "first" for Marvel, and we decided to do it because we thought you yourselves might enjoy answering each other (as well as giving us more time to spend on the yarns themselves!) So, from now on, when a frantic one brings up an objection, criticism, or query, we'll wait till some other frenzied fans retaliate, and award our usual ubiquitous No-Prizes for the best "get-the-poor-old-Bullpen-off-the-hook answers. Besides, you'll get lots more letters per page this way. So, let us know how you like our agonizin' new approach, okay?

ITEM! Let's see what's doing in the bludgeoning Bullpen these days! Rascally ROY THOMAS is knockin' 'em dead with his new Nehru threads and guru goatee! Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH will be sending us his scripts from Hollywood for the next few months! Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA bought himself a new set of wheels, and now you can't even get him to walk across the street! Jolly JACK KIRBY won three "Best Artist" awards from different fan groups in just one week! Dashin' DONNIE HECK made his first visit to the Bullpen in months, and didn't recognize SMILIN' STAN in his nutty new beard! Jaunty JIMMY STERANKO not only writes and draws his strips — but he colors 'em, too! (Watch out, Artie and Sam — if he ever finds a lettering pen — !) Every time we wanna make Merry MARIE SEVERIN happy, we promise that her brother, Long-JOHN SEVERIN will soon be inking one of her-ginchy yarns! (And, he will — soon as he gets the time!) We don't know how Darlin' DICK AYERS can do so many war stories without getting battle fatigue. He doesn't get a vacation — he takes a furlough! Oops . . . we're running out of room! More next ish!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #2: Stop the presses! Here's the biggest news of the year! In answer to a zillion desperate demands, our sensational new 35-center is now printed in full, glorious color! And it stars the vile villainy of the Green Goblin! Don't just sit there, citizen!

THE WORST FROM NOT BRAND ECHH #10: The fouled-up Fantastical Four, Spidey-Man vs. Gnat-Man, and all the other sickening sagas that won't stay dead, in one single, intolerable issue!

SILVER SURFER #2: Marvel's newest and most daringly dramatic superhero returns to thrill you again as he battles the startling occupants of a fearsome flying saucer!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Remember last ish, when we told you we'd shy away from editorializing? Well, no sooner did we go to press than a flood of new letters arrived, concerning the great "Soapbox controversy," and the vast majority went like this:

Dear Stan: In your recent Soapbox column, you asked if Marveldom Assembled wanted you to editorialize more. I vote "yes." What has separated Marvel from other mags is that you have a definite profound philosophy to express; and the way you express it is beautiful. Marvelism is fast becoming a philosophical movement. A prime example of this can be found in the Silver Surfer, one of the most moralistic characters ever created. Marvel Comics are the voice of a new breed of intellectual. Therefore, editorializing is virtually a necessity.

Achille D. DiBacco
1701 Terrace Dr. West
Lake Worth, Florida

So, that sinks it! From now on, whenever we have something to get off our collective chest, we'll assume we have a magniloquent mandate to sock it to ya, and let the chips fall where they may.

Excelsior!
Smiley.

Next ish: *"What is a bigot?"*

FANTASTIC FOUR #80: Who says this isn't the age of Marvel surprises? Just when you thought we'd forgotten about him — Wyatt Wingfoot returns — and how!

FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL #6: It's almost too much! Our heroes are trapped in another world, while Sue finally gives birth to — WOW!

SPIDER-MAN #66: And, speaking of WOW-type goodies, how about trying this one on for size — ? None other than the murderous Mysterio — more mystifying than ever!

SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL #5: Here's where Spidey learns the truth about his long gone parents — in the most off-beat Special of the year!

AVENGERS #87: Hero — or killer? Human — or monster? Those are the questions the Avengers must answer about the sinister Vision . . . if he doesn't destroy them first!

AVENGERS SPECIAL #2: Our answer to an avalanche of requests! The new Avengers battle to the death with the original Avengers . . . in a world they never made!

X-MEN #48: Our marvelous misfits are back together again . . . but can their combined might stand against an army of mutants led by the malevolent Mesmero?

DAREDEVIL #45: When we give a hero his lumps, we don't kid around! This time we've got poor DD in a trap with no escape! It'll really rock ya!

MIGHTY THOR #157: This is the one we've been leading up to! If Mangog draws the Odinsword, it means the end of the world! And — he's drawing it! Hang on, heroes!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #107: One of the strangest of all Cap's thrillers! Will our hero be destroyed by madness — or will Dr. Faustus get him first? Quien Sabe?

INCREDIBLE HULK #109: Zowee! Story by Stan Lee! Layouts by Frank Giacoia! Guest-starring a fighting-mad Ka-Zar. If Green Skin was great before, he's endsville now!

HULK SPECIAL #1: To celebrate his first sizzlin' special, who could possibly battle our jolly juggernaut to a standstill? How about the phantasmagoric — Inhumans?

IRON MAN #7: It's a battle to the finish with the malevolent Maggia, and the odds are on our golden Avenger's side, until . . . enter the Gladiator! 'Nuff said!

SUB-MARINER #7: Wouldja believe . . . Destiny for President! At long last, Namor faces the one foe he hates most of all — in one of our most startling climaxes!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #7: Mar-Vell thinks he's seen everything our ever-lovin' planet can throw at him — and then he meets the living, loathing entity — Quasimodo!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES #17: You requested it — and now you've got it! The sensational Black Knight, in a new kind of story — with a new kind of far-out foe! And oh, that artwork!

DR. STRANGE #174: You've never heard of the nefarious Nekron before, but take it from us — after this you'll never forget him! The most mystic battle of all!

SGT. FURY #59: We call this one "D-Day for Dum Dum", as our mustachioed war horse faces a life-and-death challenge . . . with the Howlers unable to help him!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #7: If we have to tell you any more than that the rocking Raiders risk all to rescue a Marine ace named Ben Grimm — but, we kinda figure we don't!

TALES OF ASGARD #1: Just to show that nobody can take mixed-up Marvel for granted, here's a giant-sized Thor-Asgard surprise Special, recreating the greatness and glory of the Thunder God's early days!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #17: The FF., Iron Man, and Doc Strange — all in one incredible ish that will leave you begging for more! Further proof that Marvel had a better idea first!

MARVEL TALES #17: A titanic trio of twice-told tales, starring the mighty Thor, the Human Torch, and the one and only Spidey! A block-bustin' bargain ish, if ever we saw one!

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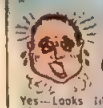

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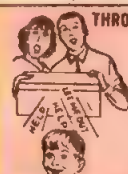

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WALLACE W. REUMANN

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☐ I understand that by studying KARATE, I am morally bound and obligated never to practice KARATE as an aggressor only to defend myself and will never abuse it.

DON'T YIELD, WRITE S.H.I.E.L.D.

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 625 MADISON AVE., N.Y., N.Y. 10022

Dear Stan and Jim,

I'm not gonna elaborate on how great your comic AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. is 'cause we both know it's really boss and a half and you probably get your fill from other letters every day anyway. Rather, I'd like to ask you something. I've been with Nick Fury from the start — I saw his first Life Model Decoy created; I saw him fight his first enemy, Hydra; I was there when he fought Mentallo and the Fixer; I watched him beat the Druids; I read on as he defied THEM and AIM; I deeply perused his battle against Hydra reborn; I learned what caused the New York blackout of '65; I sweated through his fight with the Yellow Claw; I've pondered over Jim's short one-ish stories he's been writing and drawing as of late. I've got my own torn undershirt, and I've got Nick Fury pictures plastered all over the place in my room. Now I ask you, doesn't that deserve some sort of No-Prize for loyalty or somethin'? Normally I wouldn't bug ya for such a thing, but I'm quite worn out and quite broke. So please consider my case. A No-Prize gets you acceptance into society, it's your passport into swank upper-class places, it's your freedom from guilt and misery, it's your release from life's burdens, it's your temporary escape from reality, it's your proof that you're a Keeper of the Komic, it's expensive yet cheap, it's everything yet nothing, it's valuable yet worthless, it's no and yes. I won't be able to go on much longer without one, so I'm asking you from the bottom of my heart and wallet for the No-Prize for Loyalty. The defense rests. Thanks a lot for hearing me out, as long as S.H.I.E.L.D. (or for that matter any Marvel comic) stands, so too will I be ever faithful and loyal to the cause. Step on, Marvel, but watch out — that first one can be a lulu! MAKE MINE THE BEST! MAKE IT MARVEL!

Greg Janicke, 5623 W. 64th Place
Chicago, Illinois 60638

Dear Stan and Jim,

I couldn't even take the time to get up and get my Marvel stationery! After reading NICK FURY #3, I grabbed the first paper in sight and wrote the following. Jim Steranko is the greatest innovator, experimenter, and all around artiste psychedelia of the decade! Nay, of the past thirty years! And he writes his own stories, too! Wow! If Jim does no other book for Marvel but S.H.I.E.L.D. in his career, I'll be more than satisfied. "Completely Original?" Words can't begin to describe his work which speaks quite well for itself. He took a befuddled spy strip and turned it into one of the greatest action series of all time. It has outlived its fathers, Bond and The Man from U.N.C.L.E. Just look at NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. His modest autograph is not needed. "Steranko strikes again" is written all over it. Each ish he surpasses himself. "Who is Scorpio?" was great, "Today Earth Died" greater, and now "Dark Moon Rise, Hell Hound Kill." With Steranko at the helm you can't even give a thought to "Another Baskerville Hound imitation". It just can't be done. From the totally terrifying center spread to the most infinitesimal panel on page 20, everything dripped with ultimate, bone-chilling suspense! Jim Steranko is comicdom's newest genius.

Bob Devean, 31 Liberty St.
Everett, Mass. 02149

Dear Stan and Jim:

Felicitations, fearless friends of Forbush! A few questions: Is the M.M.M.S. playing Trilby to serendipitous Stan's Svengali? Have the myopic minions of Marvel been mesmerized by lycanthropic Lee's legerdemain? Has no one seen fit to comment on symmetrian Steranko's sterling spoof in the now defunct STRANGE TALES? I am honestly amazed! I should have thought that S.H.I.E.L.D. would have been inundated by mail raving about Fury's fanciful farce. I refer to the story entitled "When Comes . . . Black Noon!" in issue #164. On page 3, Fury has materialized in the barber shop. In panel 3, Slim has rushed to close the door and bar a prospective customer from entering, saying, "Whoops! Sorry, Mister, we're closed! The boss just gave us the day off!" The gentleman answers, "Take it easy, chum! You act like I'm an enemy spy!" An enemy spy, indeed! James Bond (wouldja believe Sean Connery?) stands there in the doorway uttering those witty words, and not one of Marvel's Mole Men comments on Jaunty Jim's japery. Shame! Well, I've gotta run now. The sun is setting. Absit invidia.

Joseph Kurnava, 175 Mahar Ave.
Clifton, New Jersey 07011

Dear Stan and Jim:

As usual the latest Nick Fury story was great! The cover was one of Marvel's best. The ghostly effect on pages two and three and the swamp scene in the centerfold were magnificent! By the way, I wonder how many people noticed all that Mycroft had in common with a certain Mister Holmes? Mycroft was the name of Sherlock's brother and there was a strong resemblance between your character and the late great Sir Basil Rathbone who played Holmes back in the '30's and '40's. Well, as Honest Irv Wot's-his-name says, "Don't yield, back U.N.C.L.E.???" 'Nuff said.

Fred Miller, 132 Park Street
Middletown, Ohio 45042

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

R.F.O. (REAL FRANTIC ONE)—A BUYER OF AT LEAST 3 MARVEL MAGS A MONTH.

T.T.B. (TITANIC TRUE BELIEVER)—A DIVINELY-INSPIRED 'NO-PRIZE' WINNER.

Q.N.S. (QUITE 'NUFF SAYER)—A FORTUNATE FRANTIC ONE WHO'S HAD A LETTER PRINTED.

K.O.F. (KEEPER OF THE FLAME)—ONE WHO RECRUITS A NEWCOMER TO MARVEL'S ROLLICKIN' RANKS.

P.M.M. (PERMANENT MARVELITE MAXIMUS)—ANYONE POSSESSING ALL FOUR OF THE OTHER TITLES.

F.F.F. (FEARLESS FRONT FACER)—AN HONORARY TITLE BESTOWED FOR DEVOTION TO MARVEL ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

Dear Stan and Jim,

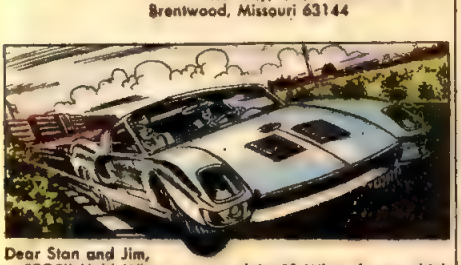
I would like to lodge a protest against the way the SHIELD comics seem to be moving. Take for instance your latest mag, #3. In favor of it I can say that the lettering by Sam Rosen was excellent (with his old English style and all that); however, aside from the lettering I can't for the life of me see what use it could possibly be. I would say that it was just the ridiculous illustrations, but that could be explained by the fact that it was a rotten story and not worth properly illustrating. It must be noted, however, that Jim Steranko both wrote and illustrated! It just goes to show what will happen when you let one person do something by himself. Then again, maybe he has just lost his touch! To try and correct the situation, these way-out weird "tales" which seem to belong more in Brand Echh, I strongly recommend returning to the basic premise for SHIELD, and let's see some action and situations which are at least somewhat believable. Considering all aspects, I consider it the biggest waste I have ever made. I'll wait until next month, though, and buy one more, then I'll decide whether you will lose 12¢ per month or not.

Wayne Kaiser, 11704 Rosamont Ave., N.E.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87112

Dear Stan and Jim,

S.H.I.E.L.D. #3 strikes me as an excellent example of nontypical Marvel script and art. The story can stand for itself with no need of reading previous stories. (It is not a S.H.I.E.L.D. story). It did not matter that Nick Fury was the hero. With a different speech pattern it could have been Sam Spade, The Saint or some new character. The plot flowed along with few captions and none of the footnotes (the unnecessary ones) that I'm getting pretty tired of. I enjoyed the way the action was linked to the plot but not dragged out as it is in some stories. As for the art, I don't see how it could be improved on. The coloring, or in some places the lack of it, did much to create the great mood of the story. Although the unbordered run-together panels (per pg. 4) are sometimes a little hard to follow, they are a welcome departure from most comics. I always enjoy Jim's use of Ben-Day, Single Tone-Double Tone and other aids. This issue was no exception. I hope to see many more of these off-trail stories in the future.

Robert Kennedy, 2020 Brentwood Blvd.
Brentwood, Missouri 63144



Dear Stan and Jim,

STOP!! Halt! What are you doing?? What do you think you're doing??! Long ago in a beautiful halcyon day, STRANGE TALES began featuring Nick Fury of SHIELD. At this time all Marveldom cheered as they saw our favorite cigar chomper rise to new heights of glory. Enemies came and went; Hydra, AIM, The Druids, and each one was a feather in your cap; and then, one sad day somethin' happened! Fury was gone, at least our Fury! In his place was an over-equipped, science-spoutin' excuse for a poor man's Flash Gordon, mixed with a grade B-minus version of James Bond. Instead of our hero in SHIELD uniform fighting fogs with his trusty tommy gun, we have some escapee from a funny farm wearin' a set of ink-colored long johns, wired up like a pinball machine, an' swingin' the latest ultra-green iso-wavelength neuro-negative-beam blaster. What you've done to our hero is bad enough; what you've done to our mag is unforgiveable! First of all, what has happened to our famous fightin' four?? Don't act innocent, you know who I mean: Fury, Gabe, Dum Dum, and Sitwell?? When these guys ruled the roost, we had a great mag! Look what's replaced them. Look what we've got now!! When two of our heroes vanished and the remaining two degenerated into mere shadows of their real selves it was sad. When we got a load of their "replacements", it was heartbreaking. Instead of our fun favorites we found ourselves stuck with three of the most unnecessary and detracting spotlight-stealers Marvel ever had the misfortune to run across. First of all the Gaff-comment: yeecchh! What did ya' guys do, steal him from Brand Echh or Bleecchh? This third-rate agent Q fits with Fury and his gang like an Edsel, or wouldja believe a Model T? Second! Agent (urk!) Quartermain, comment: (censored!) Of all the nauseating spotlight hogs in fiction, where did you dig this grinning gargoyle up?? On second thought, don't answer that, just put him back wherever it was and we'll just forget all about it, okay?? Okay! Now, the Countessa Valentina de Fountain. Don't get me wrong, I *like* girls, but does she *have* to take up so much story space?? She's a, knockout I'll admit (va-va-voom) but she is more suited to the role of occasional support member than full-time star. Aside from looking pretty, her actual contributions to the plots are usually few. Let's see a bit less of her, okay? It'll make her appearances that much better. (Besides, as far as Fury went, I always preferred Pamela Hawley. Gone but never forgotten.) The second charge to be brought against you is mutilation of plot and artwork. This is a direct attack on SHIELD! Although the damage actually goes back to the preceding story, the most graphic example of this heinous assault on story plot begins with SHIELD #1 "Who is Scorpia?" In this ill-fated first-work, the true story occupies only about half the book. This was in itself bad enough but I'll get to that in a second. The second crime perpetrated upon this book was the inclusion of a third-rate grade-C tear-jerker which bore a relationship of only 0.15% to the actual story plot (I measured!). As though this wasn't enough, you made both of the bum-hero-villains in this "favorite for sob-sisters" look too much like Sitwell. Getting to the story, details were so cluttered, one could find little real point to it. The only really redeeming feature of the whole mag was seeing Scorpio's hover-plane crash and burn. As for the artwork, I speak for many Marvel fans in saying that we're finding this continual "op-art" and psychedelic slop a little nauseating. It used to be that we could see *real* action! Now yeechh! When Marvel first got started, the pictures were too small and underdetailed, now they're too big and over-detailed! Recently then, the deteriorating quality of stories of SHIELD has been all too evident. So, if you are so hard pressed for ideas, why don't you at least go back and revive some old ones?? The Druids would be great for a starter. In closing I leave you with a comment and a couple of questions. First, issue #2 was a bit of an improvement over SHIELD #1; however, it did seem like the picture on page 17 was just a little bit of a plagiarism on King Kong. As for Dr. Black (or Centurius) he was quite a character and I'm wondering about our chances of seeing him again? In many ways he was much like the High Evolutionary; it would be something if we could see their revival and those two pussycats teamed up (or squared off!). Oh well, from a fan (I think), so long and Hail HYdra!

Fred Lee Cain, 1024 N. Penn Ave.
Independence, Kansas

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